

***Carex dioica* L.**
yellow bog sedge
Cyperaceae (Sedge Family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G5S1

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1969): Stems 2 to 8 inches tall, arising singly from long, very slender rhizomes that are only $<1/16$ inch thick. Leaves crowded toward the base, long and very slender, mostly $1\frac{1}{4}$ to 6 inches long and $1/16$ inch wide. Spike solitary, bractless, androgynous, varying to sometimes almost wholly staminate or almost wholly pistillate, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ inch long, the staminate portion very slender, only $1/16$ inch thick. Pistillate scales persistent, light brownish, somewhat scarious or almost hyaline, mostly shorter but broader than the perigynia. Perigynia crowded, plump, $1/8$ inch long, inconspicuously to very evidently multistriate, abruptly contracted to a short, obliquely cleft beak, glabrous, commonly chestnut brown at maturity, soon becoming widely spreading and often with the terminal part further recurved, the wall (especially ventrally) thick and spongy. Stigmas 2. Achene lenticular, filling the cavity of the perigynium. Rachilla obsolete.

Identification Tips: The combination of the following characters help identify this species: a solitary upright spike with widely spreading perigynia, obsolete rachilla, persistent pistillate scales, 2 stigmas, and well developed slender rhizomes.

Phenology: Identifiable June through August.

Range: Circumboreal at high latitudes, extending south in North America to Pennsylvania, Michigan, Saskatchewan, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and Oregon. In Washington it is known only from Okanogan County in the Okanogan Highlands physiographic province.

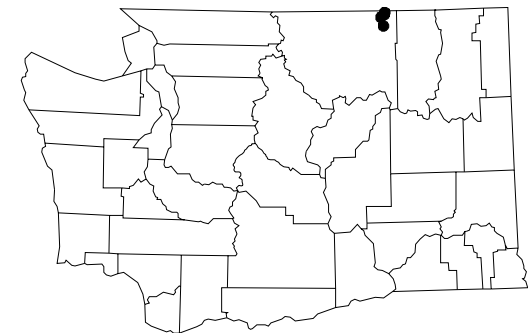
Habitat: Sphagnum bogs, forested wetlands and other wet marshy places. In Washington, associated species at one or more sites include several sedges (*Carex disperma*, *C. lanuginosa*, *C. capillaris*, *C. leptalea*), *Equisetum arvense*, *Rubus pubescens*, *Ledum groenlandicum*, *Betula glandulosa*, *Alnus incana*, *Salix* sp., *Picea engelmannii*, and *Pinus contorta*. Elevation ranges from 2600 to 3800 feet (WA).

Carex dioica
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Known distribution of
Carex dioica in
Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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Photo by Fred Weinmann



Photo by John Gamon

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Ecology: This species is considered a wetland obligate species (USFWS 1988). It occurs in relatively large wetland complexes that are dependent upon a functioning hydrologic regime.

State Status Comments: There are only a few known occurrences in Washington, all from a small geographic area.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed in appropriate habitats throughout the northern latitudes in Washington.

Threats and Management Concerns: Threats to the taxon include hydrologic alteration, timber harvesting, and grazing.

Comments: Synonymous with *C. gynocrates* Wormsk. ex Drej. (USDA, NRCS 1999).

References:

Cronquist, A. et al. 1977. *Intermountain Flora: Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, U.S.A. Volume Six*. The New York Botanical Garden, New York. 584 pp.

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1969. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 1: Vascular Cryptogams, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledons*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 914 pp.

USDA, NRCS 1999. The PLANTS database (<http://plants.usda.gov/plants>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.